

Southern Flyer



908th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., Vol. 41, Issue 6, June 2004

Reserve C-130 crews cope with danger, long hours

By Maj. Timothy Wollmuth
777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan – While many people here are at the end of their average work-day, eagerly anticipating working out, eating dinner or catching a movie before turning in for the night, Maj. James “Jake” Hayes’ duty day is just beginning.

At 4:30 p.m., the telephone rings, alerting the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron pilot and his crew to duty. Major Hayes begins his ritualistic preparation for a 16-hour C-130 combat mission. He takes a quick shower, dons his desert flight suit, reads a few lines of Scripture and says a quick prayer before grabbing his personal gear and “lucky” red gorilla. His mom gave him the gorilla to keep him safe while traveling to locations like Bagram, Kandahar and lesser-known coalition bases.

Major Hayes, a reservist from Air Force Reserve Command’s 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn., and his six-person crew have 45 minutes before their ride to Ops Town arrives. After the crew gets to Ops Town, it reviews all of the latest operational policies and gets intelligence briefings to prepare for the mission.

One of the briefers is Maj. Dave “Joker” Mirolli, a reservist from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.’s 908th AW. The 777th EAS weapons and tactics officer briefs the crew on tactics and defensive system settings for the mission to mitigate threats against their versatile and reliable C-130H Hercules aircraft.

Three-and-a-half hours after the initial telephone call, Major Hayes and his crew muscle the mighty C-130 into the quiet, dark, snowy night.

On this night, they must land on a blacked-out, rough and narrow Soviet-built airfield using night-vision goggles – a challenge for even these highly experienced C-130 operators.

“The cover of darkness is our best protection against many of the threats we face daily,” said Tech. Sgt. Dean “The Fuzz” Grothem, the team’s loadmaster deployed from the Reserve’s 934th AW. “Believe me, as a Minnesota state trooper, I can assure you it’s hard to hit something when you are blindly shooting at it.”

After quick-turning the aircraft, the next stop is a crack-of-dawn arrival onto a short, undisclosed dirt field located on the forward edge of the Afghanistan battle area.

As the crew rounds the end of a small ridgeline, the defensive weapon system blares, indicating that they may have been fired upon. Unshaken, the crew calmly but quickly orchestrates a defensive maneuver – gut-wrenching to most people –

but a thrill for these experienced tactical airlifters. The aircraft descends to a lower altitude as flares shoot out of the aircraft like a Fourth of July fireworks display.

Once above the desired landing zone, the crew rapidly configures the aircraft for landing and drops the plane onto a rough and dusty runway. Within minutes, the aircraft is unloaded and filled again with soldiers and cargo. The doors slam shut. Maximum power is applied. The Hercules bounds down the dirt landing strip and out of the battle area.

“Every mission is different for the C-130 Hercules,” said Maj. Bernie “Beans” Motschenbacher, another reservist deployed from the 934th AW. “But, we mostly fly food, ammunition and soldiers to the frontlines.

“They are the tip of the spear in the War on Terrorism,” he said. “Taking care of them is our mission, and we are all glad we can help any chance we get.”

After 16 hours of “adventure,” the crew returns to Manas AB for crew rest. The C-130 crew members will soon be back in the thick of things as they continue to supply the front lines of the War on Terrorism with critical troops and supplies.

“One may wonder what a grandfather twice over is still doing in this business,” said Senior Master Sgt. John “The Dinosaur” Skarhus, a 30-plus year Air Force Reserve flight engineer deployed from the 934th AW. “But I really can’t think of anything else I’d rather be doing. Since retirement from the fire department a few years ago, I have missed living and working in close quarters with a great group of guys like these.” (AFRC News Service)

First Lt. Anthony Hall, deployed from the 908th Operations Support Flight, was selected as Warrior of the Week at Manas Air Base, for April 16. Lieutenant Hall was recognized for his work as an intelligence officer for the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron briefing C-130 crews on the latest threats they may encounter on their down-range missions. His analysis of the threats is vital to ensuring the aircrews’ safety.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Arlo Taylor



(Courtesy Photo)

An AFRC C-130 belonging to the 908th AW lands on a dirt airfield overseas. The aircraft is deployed to the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. The airlifters of the 777th EAS deftly maneuver their trusty C-130s into a wide range of landing zones, from narrow Soviet-era airfields to dusty tracks on the edge of Afghanistan battlefields. Manas is the primary strategic hub for operations in and around Afghanistan and provides tactical airlift and aerial refueling in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Since December 2001, the 777th EAS has ferried more than 71,000 troops and more than 35,000 tons of cargo in the Afghan theater.

If the worst happens, will your loved ones collect that insurance payment? Don't leave it to chance

Maj. Win Johnson
908AW staff judge advocate

The issue of appropriate life insurance has become especially relevant because of the many deployments occurring right now. If you aren't careful with your designations for Servicemembers Group Life Insurance or if you purchase the wrong type of life insurance, your loved ones may not receive the benefits you intended for them.

In the context of additional life insurance, make sure that the policy will cover war and terrorist related events. Many insurance policies specifically exclude coverage if you should be killed in such an event. SGLI and other military associations that offer insurance normally do not exclude such events from coverage. You should carefully check the policy or have your legal office check it to ensure that wartime and terrorist-related deaths are not excluded by the policy.

There have been instances where

servicemembers purchased additional life insurance in preparation for deployment overseas, and the policy they purchased didn't cover wartime or terrorist-related death. Their beneficiaries didn't receive anything from the life insurance that the member had purchased.

SGLI does not exclude such deaths, but you must designate your beneficiaries by name on your SGLI. You can do so at any time through your Pass & ID Customer Service office. The importance of designating by name has come home for many who have faced the following types of situations.

Learn from the following real life horror stories. Recently a soldier's family learned after his death in Iraq that the added life insurance he had purchased did not cover death resulting from military action. Another soldier had purchased a minimal amount of SGLI, which did cover combat-related deaths, but thinking he was saving money, he had paid for such a small amount that the insurance payment to his bereaved wife and three children was extremely

small. The maximum insurance coverage under SGLI is not very expensive, especially when you consider the fact that it covers combat-related death.

Another military member made the "by law" designation on his SGLI. He had sent monthly allotments to his foster parents who had raised him, but at his death, his SGLI proceeds went not to the foster parents but to a drug-addicted mother who had abandoned him as a child. Also, based on the definition of child in a particular state, the "by law" designation could mean that at death an SGLI payment would go to an illegitimate child that the parent had never even

known. It is also possible that even a court-appointed administrator could receive the SGLI proceeds if you use the "by law" designation.

To avoid these types of problems, name your beneficiaries. If you plan to have more children in the future, then say something like "the children of my marriage to [fill in the blank with your spouse's name]" when you accomplish the designation.

If you need more advice on this matter, contact Pass & ID or your nearest legal office. Bring your insurance policy when you come to the legal office so we can determine what type of coverage you are purchasing.

Officials approve wear of Expeditionary Medal

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Air Force officials have authorized wear of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, which was approved by President Bush in 2003.

The Department of Defense campaign medal applies to active-duty, Reserve and Guard service members deployed abroad on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

To qualify, an individual must have been assigned or attached to a unit in OEF or OIF and served 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in specific geographic areas.

The medal will only be awarded once, regardless of how many times an individual returns to serve in OEF or OIF. There are no service stars or other devices authorized; however, battle stars may be authorized for service members who engaged in actual combat. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for battle stars.

Duty locations include these countries: **Afghanistan; Bahrain; Bulgaria (Bourgas); Crete; Cyprus; Diego Garcia; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jordan;**

Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Oman; Pakistan; Philippines; Qatar; Romania (Constanta); Saudi Arabia; Somalia; Syria; Tajikistan; Turkey (east of 35 degrees east latitude); Turkmenistan; United Arab Emirates; Uzbekistan; and Yemen.

Other areas include:

- **The portion of the Arabian Sea north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees longitude.**

- **Bab el Mandeb.**
- **The Gulf of Aden.**
- **The Gulf of Aqaba.**
- **The Gulf of Oman.**
- **The Gulf of Suez.**
- **The portion of the Mediterranean Sea east of 28 degrees east longitude.**

- **The Persian Gulf.**
- **The Red Sea.**
- **The Strait of Hormuz.**
- **The Suez Canal.**

The medal follows the Kosovo Campaign medal in precedence. (See medal on Page 8) and will be issued by local military personnel flights when it becomes available. It will also be available through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service later this year.

For more information, Airmen can contact the local MPF or call the Air Force Contact Center at 800-616-3775. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Each day I say a prayer

A few weeks back we celebrated Memorial Day. Since our involvement in the Global War on Terror, we are reminded each day of the sacrifices that our men and women in uniform are asked to make. Each week I read the names — and say a prayer for the families — of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to bring peace and freedom to our world.

My prayer is also one of protection — specifically for the men and women of the 908th. We have people all over the world — not only our Operators and Maintainers, but also our Medical folks flying missions and working in contingency hospitals, our convoy drivers assigned with the Army, and the other volunteers who are serving in hostile locations



Chaplain (Capt.) Jamie Danford
908AW staff chaplain

each day. I say a prayer that God will protect them as they serve and will be with their families.

As we enjoy the coming summer — as we take part in all the festivities that are offered — say a prayer of thanks to God. Thank Him for the protection that he has given to our men and women. May God continue to be with us and bless us.



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For information about this schedule, call Jeff Melvin at (334) 953-7874.

Aeromedevac crew transports injured El Salvadoran soldiers

Two deployed 908th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron members participated in a mission flying four El Salvadoran patients injured in Iraq from Andrews AFB to San Salvador.

The medical crew consisted of 908AES members Maj. Jeffrey Starr and Master Sgt. James Weber and Senior Airman Angela Yahne of Oklahoma City.

The medical practitioners are currently assigned to Detachment 1, 375AES at Andrews. Det is tasked to transport injured patients returning from the Middle East theater to all points in continental United States. According to Major Starr, a flight nurse, the 908th pair has been on Active Duty status since March 2003, and has been extended until September 2004.

"We have averaged one to two missions per week and are operating with other Reserve crews from Oklahoma City and Andrews. Due to the increased Ops Tempo, our patient loads are increasing daily and we no longer are using the KC-135 for patient movement, and are back using the C-130 and C-141 on CONUS missions. The KC-135 is very limited in its aerovac capability," the flight nurse said.

Also along on the mission was Lt. Col. Linda Gould, chief, Latin American branch, office of the deputy chief of staff, G-3 international affairs.

The mission took approximately 12 hours flying time round trip. The aircraft arrived in San Salvador May 6

around 2 p.m., and was greeted by members of the national press and the Minister of Defense for El Salvador. A full honor guard and other dignitaries were there to greet the aircraft, also. Photos of the AE crew off loading the injured soldiers

were picked up by international wire services.

Starr said little or no history was supplied to the medical crew about how the patients received their injuries except that one patient was involved in hand to hand combat with an Iraqi after

his weapon had failed to operate and had to rely on his personal knife for defense. A small contingent of El Salvadoran troops is in Iraq and these are apparently the first combat injuries to be returned to their country, he added.

Also along on the mission was Lt. Col. Linda Gould, chief, Latin American branch, office of the deputy chief of staff, G-3 international affairs. (Information provided by Maj. Jeffrey Starr, 908AES)



Photo by Master Sgt. James Weber

Maj. Jeffrey Starr prepares pain medication for one of the patients prior to take off from Andrews.



Photo by Maj. Jeffrey Starr

Unable to operate an unfamiliar gurney, Master Sgt. James Weber and Senior Airman Angela Yahne improvise and prepare to place the litter patient in the ambulance



Photo by Master Sgt. James Weber

Above, national press, dignitaries and a full honor guard are on hand to greet the returning injured soldiers. Right, the escort crew -- Lt. Col. Linda Gould from the Pentagon; El Salvadoran Brig. Gen. Carlos



Courtesy photo

Alfredo Soto Hernandez, commander, Second Infantry Brigade; 908AES members Master Sgt. James Weber and Maj. Jeffrey Starr, and Senior Airman Angela Yahne.

DOD asks reservists to enter employer info in national job database

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Reservists from throughout the armed forces began registering their civilian places of employment for the first time with the Department of Defense March 31.

Called the Civilian Employment Information program, the registration is the first mandatory disclosure by the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve of their civilian employers into a common database.

"This information will be used to meet three different requirements defined by fed-

eral law," said Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., vice commander of Air Force Reserve Command at Robins AFB. "During activations or presidential mobilizations, the Department of Defense needs to consider the impact on our civilian communities and ensure that reservists fulfilling critical civilian occupations are not kept in service longer than absolutely necessary. Also, we have an obligation to inform those civilians who employ reservists of their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employ-

ment and Re-employment Rights Act."

Air Force reservists can enter their employer data by going to the new Defense Manpower Data Center Web site at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>.

"Our Citizen Airmen balance the demands of their military service with those of their families and civilian employers," said General Batbie. "To make the Air Force mission a success, our reservists go above and beyond the commitments of civilian life. We want to make

sure that their rights are protected and that they can return to their important civilian roles in our communities."

All services will provide unit commanders with compliance reports that will allow commanders to ensure subordinates have entered employer information to the database and that the information is being maintained on at least an annual basis.

After clicking on the Web site, reservists enter their employment status, employers' names, mailing addresses, civilian job titles

and total number of years in their current civilian occupations.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve staff will not directly contact any employer about an individual reservist unless the reservist asks for assistance with an employer issue. However, ESGR will send general information to employers including surveys to determine employer attitudes as well as efforts to develop positive relationships with employers and support for reservists and guardsmen. (AFRC News Service)

Sunny Savannah serves as site of combined wing scenario

By Staff Sgt. Jay Ponder
908AW Public Affairs

Members of the 908th Air Wing completed the first of two operational readiness exercises May 20-23 at Travis Field near Savannah, Ga.

The 908th personnel worked alongside members of two Air National Guard units, the 153rd Air Wing from Cheyenne, Wyo. and the 145th Air Wing from Charlotte, N.C. The four-day exercise offered an opportunity for guard and reserve units to operate as one combined wing, the

918th Air Expeditionary Wing.

"The 908th was tagged with two Air Guard units. In the past, it has always been reserve units together or just our own wing doing the exercise," said 908th Mission Support Group Commander Lt. Col. Bill Forshey, who led the 908th exercise contingent.

"The ORE gave us the opportunity to see what we have to fix, what we have to standardize, and what we have to communicate," Colonel Forshey added.

The ORE, he said, presented an opportunity to

"standardize our working processes, so when we come back in August, we will already have taken care of those things that we would normally have to do the first two days of deployment."

Lt. Col. Tony McMillan, 145AW operations group commander, doubled as exercise commander. He praised "everyone's great attitude and sense of urgency."

Communication, Colonel McMillan said, was eye-opening. "Three wings working together, Guard and Reserve presented a

good time to blend. Everyone got together on the same sheet of music. Everyone focused on the outcome. The EET team will submit a written report with suggestions and we'll come back and try some new things."

Feedback from other exercise participants was overwhelmingly positive.

"The ORE was a great learning experience because I got to work with the other units that participated and had the opportunity to meet people in my career field from those units," said Master Sgt.

Jonathon Gray, financial management superintendent for the 908th. "Everyone should do this because this is our job. It's just not sitting and drawing a paycheck."

Staff Sgt. Mike Freeman said it was good to get a feel for the overall process of what can happen in a wartime situation. "The ORE was also a good chance to meet my counterparts from the Air National Guard side," said the 908th AW a command post controller.

Chaplain (Capt.) James Danford gave the exercise high marks, too.

"My two chaplain's assistants came from different wings. We pooled our knowledge and worked together as a team," Chaplain Danford said.

He added that not only was ORE a good learning experience, but it also provided a chance to meet and work with other people from the same career field.

908th AW intelligence analyst Senior Airman Mike Henson liked the interaction between units. "This ORE was a lot better test than what we could have had on a drill weekend," he said. He especially liked the fact that the exercise included scenarios for all the various squadrons within the wings that participated.

Staff Sgt. Anita Atkinson, a personnel specialist with the 908th, praised the organization. "This ORE was more organized and everyone knew what to do," she said.

The key, Colonel Forshey said, "is putting information in the hands of the people that are deploying so they all understand how this works."

He continued, "Basically, we worked off the same sheet of music. Some people's music might have had a different colored paper, but now we are going to merge the ideas together and make one seamless sheet of music."



An inspector observes members set up a transition point to the flightline. Transition points between sectors are part of the new concept of operations. The aim is to get those in uncontaminated areas back in the fight as quickly



as possible following an attack. Right, a sector search team member communicates with his work center following a simulated attack.



Above, Chaplain (Capt.) Jamie Danford drinks from a canteen while in full protective gear. With



temperatures and humidity both in the high 80s, drinking enough water was vital. Right, A member of the inspection team checks on the well being of a member in a simulated bunker following an attack.

Photos by Maj. Jerry Lobb

Continued on page 5

Generosity knows no national boundaries

Alabama reservists lend helping hand to local charities while deployed

MANAS AIR BASE, KYR-GYZSTAN – More than 250 Air Force reservists from 908th Airlift Wing were called to active duty to provide direct support to Operation Enduring Freedom, combat operations in Afghanistan last November.

The reservists were sent to Manas Air Base, an old Soviet airfield, near Kyrgyzstan's capital city of Bishkek and about 500 miles north of the Afghanistan border in early December 2003.

908AW aircrews, maintenance and support personnel keep the unit's C-130 cargo aircraft in the air, providing support to Army, Marine, and Air Force ground troops in Afghanistan.

Several Airmen started venturing out in the local community and could not believe what they saw.

"It's like Alabama in the forties", said Tech Sgt. Donald Corkum. "The average person makes less than \$20 a month and doesn't have running water in his or her home."

The unit members began helping one local charity, Children's Cancer Center, with clothes, toys, and food. Now the reservists are

helping four different charities.

A local orphanage received a new stove, pots, and pans. The Airmen plan to put a new roof on the Children's Cancer Center.

"In the middle of a war, we take the time to help others," said Tech. Sgt. William Mayfield.

"This is why we are the greatest country in the world, and why we will win this war," The Cherokee, Ala., reservist added.

The reservists' efforts are well-received. Among their most ardent supporters are youngsters like four-year old Niklia, a patient at the Children's Cancer Center, who said "I want to grow up to be an American soldier because they help people."

"This is a total team effort," said



Courtesy photo

Several 908th Airmen visit the Children's Cancer Center. Left to right, back row, Donald Corkum, Carl Owens and William Mayfield. Front row, 6-year-old, Ivan, and 4-year-old, Niklia.

Master Sgt. Mike Renda. "Everyone has pitched in, active duty personnel and reservists from all over helped to make this a success."

In less than six months, the Airmen have donated thousands of

dollars and hundreds of hours of labor to local the charities. (Information provided by Tech. Sgt. William Mayfield)

Savannah serves as site

Continued from page 4

Colonel Forshey offered a tip about ensuring success in exercises or real world deployments.

Most important, he said is "always learn something. That's the key, if you don't learn but one thing, it's get Intel on the ground. Find out how things should work or don't work."

Seeing how your counterparts in the other wings think things should work is invaluable. Then you either adjust to their philosophy or help them adjust to yours, Colonel Forshey said.

And for those folks who were impressed with the interaction between units, the next exercise will feature an even higher level of cooperation.

"Now, in August and in October, there's not just going to be a 145th, 153rd, or the 908th, but one Expeditionary Wing rainbowing just like we're doing all over the world today."



Photos by Maj. Jerry Lobb

Returned deployed reservists present flags at high school Government Day

Three members of the 908th Maintenance Squadron presented U.S. and Alabama flags flown over Afghanistan to Prattville High School May 10. The presentation was part of the school's annual Government Day. The entire student body witnessed as MXS commander Maj.

Cauley Von Hoffman (far left), Master Sgt. Joe Stanski (2nd from left) and Tech. Sgt. Phil Rone presented the flags and certificates to Principal Roger Stilfflemire. Rone's wife, Carol, teaches at the school and was instrumental in the preparations and the ceremony. She mailed the flags to

her husband and obtained the cases. She did a masterful job singing the national anthem during the ceremony. The flags and certificates are now on display at Prattville High and will be used during future Government Day events.

Gen. Sherrard ends nearly 40 years of service



Photo by Bo Joyner

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, left, and Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, look over a letter from the president congratulating General Sherrard on the occasion of his retirement from the Air Force. One thousand people turned out May 11 at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to say goodbye to General Sherrard.

Congress eyeing budget plans

WASHINGTON — Congress has considered several legislative proposals since 9/11 designed to help reservists and their families cope with activations, high operational and personnel tempo, family separations and shifts in annual income.

One of the most recent is Senate Bill 2068, the Guard and Reserve Enhanced Benefits Act of 2004. Introduced in February, the bill would expand benefits beyond those outlined in President Bush's \$401 billion proposed 2005 Department of Defense budget.

The Senate bill calls for providing child care assistance grants, expanding Montgomery GI Bill benefits, deferring student loan payments, reducing the age for drawing reserve retirement pay and expanding TRICARE coverage regardless of employment or insurance status. The bill also allows employers to claim up to \$12,000 in tax credits for the pay differential of National Guard and Reserve employees.

"Congress began its markup of the president's budget for DOD in early May," said Wayne Gracie, director of Policy Integration in the Office of the Air Force

Reserve in the Pentagon. "It is taking a close look at S. 2068 and other proposals. Some of the provisions have been recommended before and have not been enacted into law."

In its review, one major factor that Congress will take into account is the number of mobilized reservists. As of April 27, the Department of Defense reported that more than 170,000 reservists and National Guard members were mobilized. Of that number, more than 5,400 were reservists in Air Force Reserve Command.

If the president's budget for fiscal 2005 is enacted, the Air Force Reserve would receive \$3.788 billion to train, equip, organize and administer some 76,000 reservists. This request is comprised of \$2.24 billion for operation and maintenance, \$1.464 billion for reserve personnel and \$84 million for military construction.

"We won't know what's included in the final authorization and appropriations bills until probably later this summer," said Mr. Gracie. "A lot can happen between now and when the president signs a spending or authorization bill into law." (AFRC News Service)

Pres. tabs Gen. Bradley to lead AFRC

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Maj. Gen. John A. Bradley has been nominated by the president to the Senate for promotion to lieutenant general and appointment as chief of Air Force Reserve and commander of Air Force Reserve Command.

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, relinquished command of AFRC during a ceremony here May 11. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper presided over General Sherrard's retirement, which took effect June 1.

If General Bradley is not confirmed by June 1, Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., AFRC vice commander, will continue to lead the command until General Bradley is confirmed.

General Bradley is the assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for

Reserve Matters in the Pentagon. Other recent assignments since that December 2002 appointment include:

- ◆ Deputy commander of Joint Task Force-Computer Network Operations, U.S. Space Command, Arlington, Va., from March 2002 to December 2002;

- ◆ Commander of 10th Air Force, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, from February 1998 to March 2002; and

- ◆ Deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve, Headquarters Air Force, Washington, D.C., from February 1993 to February 1998.

- ◆ The chief of Air Force Reserve serves as principal adviser on Reserve matters to the Air Force chief of staff. In the dual-hat role, the AFRC commander is responsible for supervising Air Force Reserve units worldwide.



Maj. Gen. John A. Bradley

General Bradley began his Air Force career in September 1967 as a mathematician and program analyst at Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt AFB, Neb. He completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Sheppard AFB, Texas, in March 1970, and separated from the active force in April 1973 to join the Air Force Reserve at Barksdale AFB, La. (AFRC News Service)

'MyEasy Payment' system offers travel cardholders online-payment option

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Airmen with government travel cards can now make payments to their accounts online.

The "MyEasyPayment" system allows Airmen with government travel cards to pay off residual or unexpected charges not covered by split disbursement payments, said Josephine Davis, the Air Force banking liaison officer.

"Split disbursement of travel card payments is mandatory for military members and by default for civilians, but there are unavoidable situations when the split-disbursed amount does not cover your total charges," Ms. Davis said.

Airmen are required to use their government cards for airline tickets, hotels and rental cars for military travel. They may also use their cards to purchase meals and to get cash for incidental expenses.

When Airmen return

from travel, they file a voucher so they can be reimbursed for their expenses. That payment, or disbursement, is split between the Airmen's personal-checking account and their travel-card account. Airmen are responsible for indicating how much money should be sent to the travel-card account. If there is a miscalculation of the amount owed on the travel card, there can be residual or unexpected charges still owed.

An example of an unexpected or residual charge is when an Airman makes a purchase overseas and the exchange rate changes before the merchant processes the charge, Ms. Davis said.

"There could be additional money owed there," she said. "Instead of the transaction costing \$50, it may now cost \$52."

Another example is when Airmen lose receipts and forget about charges on their cards.

Despite those types of errors, Ms. Davis said Airmen are still responsible for paying off their accounts in full.

"Just like with any other

credit card, it is our responsibility to know what we owe," Ms. Davis said. "Sometimes you need to call the bank and find out what you need to pay. This system gives you the opportunity to make those payments."

Airmen with questions about being reimbursed for unexpected or residual charges on their accounts should contact their military travel pay office, Ms. Davis said. Travelers may need to file an amended travel voucher if they feel they are owed money.

The payment system can be found at www.myeasypayment.com. To use the system, cardholders need to know the amount they want to pay on the card, the card's account number and security code, and their checking account and bank routing numbers.

Ms. Davis said cardholders can check their account balance by calling the toll-free number on the back of the card. (Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Event</u>
<u>Friday, June 11, 2004</u>		

Saturday, June 12, 2004

Sunday, June 13, 2004

Support functions' schedule			
<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dates & hours of operation</u>		<u>Location/Ext.</u>
Newcomers' Training Flight		Sun, 0630-1600	Bldg. 1056/Rm 101
MPF Customer Service	Sat, 0800-1200	Sun, 0900-1100	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
		Sun, 1200-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
ID Cards	M-F, 0630-1600	Sun, 0700-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-5522
	Sat, 0800-1200		
	1500-1700		
Reserve Pay	M-F, 0700-1100;	Sat, 0800-1600	Bldg. 1056/3-6722
	1200-1600		
Fitness For Duty	Sat, 0830-0900	Sun, 0730-0800	Bldg. 711/3-5714
(Bring DD Form 689)	1330-1400		
Medical Records	Sat, 0800-1500	Sun, 0800-1300	Bldg. 711/3-5714
Individual Equipment	Sat, 0800-1530		Bldg. 1154/3-6020
Clothing Sales	Sat, 0900-1500		Bldg. 851/3-7505
Restricted Area Badges	M-F, 0630-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
Vehicle Registration	M- F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
	Sat, 1300-1500		Bldg. 1056/Rm 122C
Geneva Convention Cards	M-F, 0730-1600	Sun, 1200-1500	Bldg. 502/3-4283
Dining Hall	Sat, 0600-0930	Sun, 0600-0930	Bldg. 668/3-5127
	1100-1300	1100-1300	
	1600-1830	1600-1830	
Lodging office/reservations (lodging problems, contact 908th rep via lodging front desk)			Bldg. 1573/3-2401
Photo lab	M-F, 0730-1630	Sun, 1300-1500	Bldg. 926/3-7981

Arrive Maxwell at 2115 local

July 10-11; Aug. 7-8; Sept. 11-12

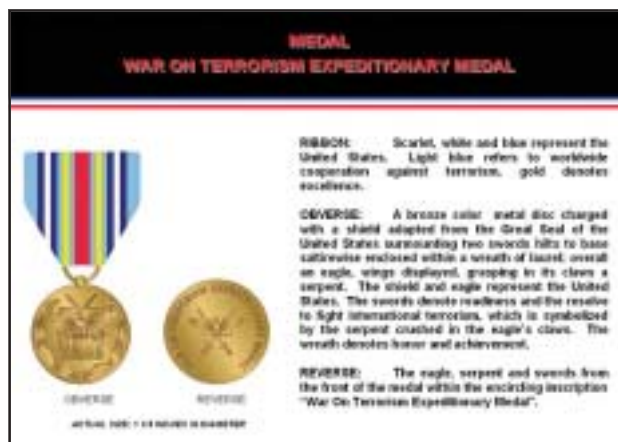
Take Note

Congratulations to the following people:

Promotions

....to Master Sgt.
George McGeehan, MXS
to Tech. Sgt.
Robert Stewart, MXS
to Staff Sgt.
Christopher Boyle, LRS
Joseph Buettner, MXS
Felizia Cunningham, AMS
Michael Harper, MXS
Andy Hernly, LRS
Robert Kenning, AMS
Demetrius King, MXS
Johnathan Martin, MXS
Bakir Mason, SVF
Troy Stokes, AMS
Jake Williams III, 25APS
to Senior Airman
Abigail Aldridge, ASTS
Christina Anderson, ASTS
Eddie Anderson, ASTS
LeArthur Armstead, MXS
KrystleMay Borja, ASTS

Jacob Byford, ASTS
Austin Franklin, MXS
Frantina Iverson, ASTS
Charles Jackson, 908AW
Kenneth Kibble, MXS
Frederick Koehl, 25APS
Demetrius Law, LRS
Adam Patrick, 357AS
Charles Watwood, CES
to Airman 1st Class
Gary Bronson, LRS
Edwin Davis, AMS
Elissa Helms, ASTS
Arnesia Moore, OSF
Thomas Speight Jr., ASTS
to Airman
Michael Hosea, 25APS
Charles Huys, CES
Amy Lindstrom, 908AW
Corbin Murphy, AMS
Hannah Peacock, ASTS
Anthony Riley, 25APS
Marquis Thomas, 357AS
Alex Williams, LRS
Retirements
Tech. Sgt. Frank Swick Jr.
Tech Sgt. Willie Harris, MOF



AAFES supports deployed troops with public phone card sales

WASHINGTON -- The Defense Department has granted approval for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to sell prepaid phone cards to the general public for donation to Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom service members.

By law, only patrons with military exchange privileges can shop at AAFES retail stores, but officials announced that the exchange service would begin selling phone cards to normally ineligible people and organizations on its Web site.

Those wishing to purchase the cards can log on to the site (<http://www.aafes.com>) and click on the "Help Our Troops Call Home" icon. The cards can be designated for an individual service member or sent to "any service member" and distributed by the American Red Cross.

Phone cards also can be donated to the Air Force Aid Society and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, as well as the Fisher House. All are non-profit charitable organizations that support service members and their families in need.



Photo by Jeff Melvin

Maintainer gets Sharp Troop nod

Airlift aircraft mechanic Tech. Sgt. Hoyt Tidwell inspects a canister aboard a unit C-130 aircraft. A 908AW member since 1977, Sergeant Tidwell was selected by the wing's Chiefs' Group as the May Sharp Troop winner. Sharp Troop Award recipients are selected based on exemplary job performance, military bearing and personal appearance.



Courtesy photo

Aerial porter receives governor's award

25th Aerial Port Squadron's Senior Master Sgt. John Rawls, center, poses for a photo opportunity with Alabama Gov. Bob Riley. Sergeant Rawls, this year's wing Senior NCO of the Year visited the Capitol to receive another honor, the 2004 Governor's Outstanding Enlisted Representative Award. The material handling

equipment section NCOIC was accompanied by Ala. Army National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Mark Bowen (far right); 908AW Commander Col. Heath Nuckolls (2nd from right) and 908AW Command Chief Master Sgt. Amos Moore.

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908th Airlift Wing
 401 W. Maxwell Blvd.
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 Montgomery, AL. 36112-6501

To the Family of: